

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The valve device 14 has a hollow-cylindrical valve body 21 which can be rotated about its longitudinal axis by an actuator 20 ~~20~~ 20a between a closed position, in which release of exhaust gas from the exhaust-gas ducts 4 is prevented, and two different open positions. Two communication openings 18 and 19 are incorporated into the valve body and are each assigned to one of the open positions, in which one of the communication openings is flow-connected to one or to both of the connecting lines 15 and 16 and exhaust gas can flow into the interior of the hollow-cylindrical valve body 21 via the respective communication opening, the bypass 17 being in communication with the valve body 21. In the closed position, in contrast, the valve body 21 is rotated to such an extent that the communication openings are displaced from the release openings of the connecting lines 15 and 16 and therefore all communication between the exhaust pipes 4a and 4b and the bypass 17 is blocked.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 2 shows a section through the valve device 14. The hollow-cylindrical valve body 21 is rotatably mounted in a valve housing 26 and can be adjusted between its open positions and its closed position by ~~an~~ the actuator 20a. The communication openings 18 and 19 are incorporated into the wall of the valve body 21 and have a cross-sectional area of different size, the first communication opening 18 with the smaller

cross-sectional area being assigned to the first open position, which is assumed by the valve device 14 in the engine braking mode, and the second communication opening 19 with the larger cross-sectional area corresponding to the second open position, which is assumed by the valve device 14 in the engine driving mode. The two communication openings 18 and 19 are separated by a wall section 22, which extends between them and is expediently forms the blocking structure in the closed position of the valve device.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The diagram according to Fig. 3 shows ~~the~~ the release opening cross section A as a function of the adjustment angle φ . The release opening cross section A_{BR} increases during rotation of the valve body, starting from the central position φ_0 , in the direction φ_{BR} from the value 0 to a maximum value $A_{BR,max}$ which is achieved at the angular position $\varphi_{BR,max}$. This release cross section is achieved in the first open position and corresponds to the cross-sectional area of the first communication opening 18.